

19. (New) The device of claim 1, wherein said means for removing is supported at a position so as to remove contaminants from the liquid before the liquid contacts said ingredients.

20. (New) The device of claim 1, wherein said means for removing is supported so as to be separated from said liquid after said liquid has come in contact with said ingredients.

R! 21. (New) The device of claim 1, wherein said means for removing is supported so that said liquid contacts said removing means only prior to said liquid coming into contact with said ingredients.

22. (New) The device of claim 1, wherein said means for removing is supported so that said liquid does not contact said means for removing after said liquid has contacted said ingredients.

23. (New) The device of claim 1, wherein the liquid is water and said means for removing removes said contaminants from the water.

24. (New) The method of claim 15, wherein said means for removing is supported at a position in said compartment so that said means for removing does not come into contact with said ingredients.

25. (New) The method of claim 15, wherein said means for removing is supported above the ingredients.

26. (New) The method of claim 15, wherein said means for removing is supported at a position so as to remove contaminants from the liquid before the liquid contacts said ingredients.

27. (New) The method of claim 15, wherein said means for removing is supported so as to be separated from said liquid after said liquid has come into contact with said ingredients.

a! 28. (New) The method of claim 15, wherein said means for removing is supported so that said liquid contacts said means for removing only prior to said liquid contacting said ingredients.

29. (New) The method of claim 15, wherein said means for removing is supported so that said liquid does not contact said means for removing after said liquid has contacted said ingredients.

30. (New) The method of claim 15, wherein the liquid is water and said means for removing removes said contaminants from the water.

31. (New) The system of claim 16, wherein said means for removing is supported at a position in said compartment so that said means for removing does not come into contact with said ingredients.

32. (New) The system of claim 16, wherein said means for removing is supported above the ingredients.

33. (New) The system of claim 16, wherein said means for removing is supported at a position so as to remove contaminants from the liquid before the liquid contacts said ingredients.

34. (New) The system of claim 16, wherein said means for removing is supported so as to be separated from said liquid after said liquid has come into contact with said ingredients.

a! 35. (New) The system of claim 16, wherein said means for removing is supported so that said liquid contacts said means for removing only prior to said liquid contacting said ingredients.

36. (New) The system of claim 16, wherein said means for removing is supported so that said liquid does not contact said means for removing after said liquid has contacted said ingredients.

37. (New) The system of claim 16, wherein the liquid is water and said means for removing removes said contaminants from the water.

REMARKS

This application, as amended herein, contains claims 1-16, and newly added claims 17-37.

Before dealing with the merits, the undersigned notes that an Information Disclosure Statement was mailed to the United States Patent and Trademark Office on June 8, 2001.